In addition, the claims may have other patentably distinct features not mentioned. Therefore, Applicant believes the claims are patentable under §103 and requests they be passed to allowance.

1. Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-17, 26-28, 30, 33, and 39 are Patentable over Carvey

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-17, 26-28, 30, 33, and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.§103(a) as being unpatentable over Carvey (U.S. Patent No. 5,699,357).

Claim 1 recites "a plurality of router nodes, each router node having a transceiver capable of receiving device information from one or more proximate wireless devices and capable of wireless communication at a higher power level with other router nodes," which is not taught or suggested by Carvey. Carvey does not teach or suggest "a plurality of router nodes." By contrast, Carvey discloses one server in a personal digital assistant (PDA) communicating with a number of personal electronic accessories (PEAs). (Carvey, abstract, col. 1 lines 4-8; col. 2 lines 17-30). To see this distinction, compare elements 114, 116, 188, 120, 122 of Applicant's Figure 1 with Carvey's Figure 1. Also, Carvey does not teach or suggest "wireless communication at a higher power level with other router nodes." Instead, Carvey merely discloses "low duty cycle pulsed operation." (Carvey, abstract, col. 1 line 54). Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Carvey because Carvey does not teach or suggest "a plurality of router nodes" or "wireless communication at a higher power level with other router nodes."

Claims 2-3 and 5-9 are also patentable over Carvey under §103. If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious. MPEP 2143.03. Claim 1 is patentable over Carvey and claims 2-3 and 5-9 depend from claim 1.

Claim 10 recites "a plurality of devices, each device having a low power battery operated transceiver that communicates information over a short range . . . a router having a transceiver that receives communications from at least one selected device and transmits further communications via a higher power transceiver to other routers," which is not taught or suggested by Carvey. Carvey does not teach or suggest devices communicating over a short range with a router and the router communicating via a higher power transceiver to other routers. As stated above, Carvey discloses one server in a personal digital assistant (PDA)

communicating with a number of personal electronic accessories (PEAs). (Carvey, abstract, col. 1 lines 4-8; col. 2 lines 17-30). Therefore, claim 10 is patentable over Carvey.

Claims 11 and 13-17 depend—directly or indirectly—from claim 10, which is patentable over Carvey under §103. Therefore, under MPEP 2143.03, claims 11 and 13-17 are also patentable over Carvey under §103.

Claim 26 recites "a first router node . . . a second router node having a first receiver for receiving low power transmissions . . . from a plurality of devices . . ., a second receiver for receiving high bandwidth transmissions from other routers in the system, and a first transmitter coupled to the first and second receivers that transmits information from the plurality of devices at a relatively high power to the first router node," which is not taught or suggested by Carvey. Carvey does not teach or suggest first and second router nodes. Carvey also does not teach or suggest a first transmitter that transmits information at a relatively high power to the first router node. Therefore, claim 26 is patentable over Carvey under §103.

Claims 27 and 28 depend—directly or indirectly—from claim 26, which is patentable over Carvey under §103. Therefore, under MPEP 2143.03, claims 27 and 28 are also patentable over Carvey under §103.

Claim 30 recites "a second transceiver that receives high bandwidth transmissions from other routers in the system, wherein the second transceiver further transmits information from the plurality of devices at a higher power level than the received low power transmissions," which is not taught or suggested by Carvey. Carvey does not teach a second transceiver that receives high bandwidth transmissions from other routers and transmits at a higher power level. Therefore, claim 30 is patentable over Carvey under §103.

Claim 33 is also patentable over Carvey under §103 because it depends from claim 30. MPEP 2143.03.

Claim 39 recites "a plurality of means for being located proximate to and receiving device information from one or more of the means for transmitting information at a lower power and for wireless communication at a higher power level with other such means," which is patentable over Carvey under §103 because Carvey does not teach or suggest both lower and higher power communication.

2. Claims 31 and 32 are Patentable over Carvey/Graham

Claims 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.§103(a) as being unpatentable over Carvey in view of Graham et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,351,270).

Claims 31 and 32 depend from claim 30, which recites "a second transceiver that receives high bandwidth transmissions from other routers in the system, wherein the second transceiver further transmits information from the plurality of devices at a higher power level than the received low power transmissions." Neither Carvey nor Graham teach or suggest a transceiver receiving both low power transmissions and high bandwidth transmissions. As discussed above, Carvey does not teach or suggest this element. Graham discloses a portable cellular telephone interfacing with a transceiver in an automobile for communicating with a public telephone system. The combination Carvey/Graham does not teach or suggest this element in claim 30. Therefore, under MPEP 2143.03, claims 31 and 32, which depend from claim 30, are patentable over Carvey/Graham under §103.

3. Claims 34 and 35 are Patentable over Carvey/Hull

Claims 34 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.§103(a) as being unpatentable over Carvey in view of Hull et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,806,005).

Claim 34 recites "the hardwired device comprises a video camera." The combination Carvey/Hull does not teach or suggest the hardwired device. Claim 34 depends from claim 33 which recites "a device which is hardwired directly to the router node for direct communication of high bandwidth information." Neither Carvey nor Hull teach or suggest a device hardwired to a router node. Additionally, claims 34 and 35 depend indirectly from claim 30 which recites "a second transceiver that receives high bandwidth transmissions from other routers in the system, wherein the second transceiver further transmits information from the plurality of devices at a higher power level than the received low power transmissions." This element is not taught or suggested by Carvey as shown above and Hull does not teach or suggest it either. Therefore, under MPEP 2143.03, claims 34 and 35 are patentable over Carvey/Hull under §103.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612) 373-6972 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 7 day of May, 2001.

Heidi Lostie
Name

_____
Signature